

ABSTRACT

A flexible, user-configurable, multifunctional network interface node capable of communicating with and controlling a plurality of system devices, including digital, analog, and serial devices. The network node includes two
5 basic components: (a) user-configurable software which provides a common software interface for different system devices; and (b) hardware which provides a hardware interface for the system devices and executes various functions as directed by the user-configurable software.

10